

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A golf bag carrier comprising:

a body comprising a first end, a second end and a longitudinal axis extending therebetween, and the body defining a cavity between the first and second end adapted that is dimensioned to contain a golf bag with a set of golf clubs therein, each of the golf clubs in the set having a head, each head having a top edge spaced farthest from a receiving end of the golf bag when the set of clubs are placed in the golf bag; and

an adjustable and flexible helmet attached to said body within said cavity and proximate the first end of the body, said helmet configured to extend over and engage the top of the heads of ~~overlie and cover the heads of~~ said golf clubs from above the top edges of the heads when the golf bag and clubs are placed in said cavity, in an orientation substantially perpendicular to shafts of said golf clubs, and adapted to constrain the helmet maintaining the set of golf clubs in spaced relation from the first end of the body and preventing at least some of said golf clubs from moving within the cavity in a direction along said longitudinal axis toward the first end of the body.

2. (currently amended) A golf bag carrier in accordance with claim 1, wherein said helmet comprises a head portion and a shaft portion, said head portion ~~extending substantially perpendicular to said longitudinal axis~~ overlying and covering the top edges of the heads of the golf clubs from above in a direction substantially transverse to the longitudinal axis, and said shaft portion extending over a side of at least some of the golf club heads in a direction substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis.

3. (original) A golf bag carrier in accordance with claim 1 further comprising a helmet locking assembly attached to said helmet wherein said helmet locking assembly is adjustable.

4. (original) A golf bag carrier in accordance with claim 1, wherein said body further comprises at least one sleeve within said cavity.

5. (currently amended) A golf bag carrier in accordance with claim 4, further comprising a protective member received in said sleeve, the protective member having a first free end and a second free end, said first free end configured to extend circumferentially around the receiving end of said golf bag in a first direction and said second free end configured to extend circumferentially around the receiving end of said golf bag in a second direction, wherein the protective member wraps around a side of at least some of the golf clubs and around a portion of the helmet.

6. (original) A golf bag carrier in accordance with claim 5, wherein said second free end overlaps said first free end.

7. (original) A golf bag carrier in accordance with claim 5, wherein said helmet further comprises at least one protective layer which contacts the golf clubs and said protective member further comprises at least one protective layer which contacts the golf clubs.

8. (original) A golf bag carrier in accordance with claim 5, further comprising a protective member locking assembly which engages said protective member, wherein said protective member locking assembly is adjustable.

9. (currently amended) A golf bag carrier comprising:

a body comprising a longitudinal axis and defining a cavity adapted to contain a golf bag with a set of golf clubs therein, said body comprising at least one sleeve within said cavity; and

a protective member ~~received in~~ passing through said sleeve, the protective member having a first free end and a second free end extending from opposing sides of the sleeve, said first free end configured to extend circumferentially around the golf bag in a first direction and said second free end configured to extend circumferentially around the golf bag in a second direction, whereby the entire circumference of the golf bag and the golf club heads are protected by the protective member.

10. (original) A golf bag carrier in accordance with claim 9, wherein said second free end overlaps said first free end.

11. (original) A golf bag carrier in accordance with claim 9, further comprising a protective member locking assembly which engages said protective member, wherein said protective member locking assembly is adjustable.

12. (original) A golf bag carrier in accordance with claim 9, further comprising a helmet attached to said body within said cavity, said helmet configured to extend over the top of the heads of said golf clubs and adapted to constrain said golf clubs from moving in a direction along a longitudinal axis of said golf bag.

13. (original) A golf bag carrier in accordance with claim 12, wherein said helmet further comprises at least one protective layer which contacts the golf clubs and said protective member further comprises at least one protective layer which contacts the golf clubs.

14. (original) A golf bag carrier in accordance with claim 12 wherein said helmet comprises a head portion and a shaft portion, said head portion extending substantially perpendicular to said longitudinal axis and said shaft portion extending substantially parallel to said longitudinal axis.

15. (original) A golf bag carrier in accordance with claim 12, further comprising a helmet locking assembly which engages said helmet, wherein said helmet locking assembly is adjustable.

16. (currently amended) A golf bag carrier comprising:

a body comprising a longitudinal axis and defining a cavity ~~adapted~~ dimensioned to receive and contain a golf bag with a set of golf clubs therein; and

a golf club protection assembly adapted to protect the golf club shafts and the golf club heads within the cavity, said protection assembly comprising an adjustable and flexible helmet configured to ~~extend over the~~ overlie a top edge of the golf club heads from above the golf club heads, ~~in an orientation substantially perpendicular to shafts of said golf clubs, and adapted to~~ and constraining at least some of said golf clubs from moving relative to the body in a direction along said longitudinal axis, and a protective member separate from the helmet, the protective member configured to extend circumferentially around an outer periphery of the golf bag to

surround the sides of the golf clubs , the protective member also extending over and protecting a portion of the helmet.

17. (original) A golf bag carrier in accordance with claim 16, wherein said protective member comprises a first free end and a second free, said first free end and said second free end configured to extend circumferentially around said golf bag wherein said second free end overlaps said first free end.

18. (original) A golf bag carrier in accordance with claim 16, wherein said helmet further comprises at least one protective layer which contacts the golf clubs and said protective member further comprises at least one protective layer which contacts the golf clubs.

19. (original) A golf bag carrier in accordance with claim 16, further comprising a protective member locking assembly which engages said protective member, wherein said protective member locking assembly is adjustable.

20. (original) A golf bag carrier in accordance with claim 16, further comprising a helmet locking assembly which engages said helmet, wherein said helmet locking assembly is adjustable.

21. (currently amended) A golf bag carrier for transporting a golf bag and a plurality of golf clubs, each of the respective golf clubs having elongated shafts and golf club heads, the golf bag having a body and the shafts being situated in the golf bag with the golf club heads extending from the body, the golf bag carrier comprising:

an elongated body carrier body having a carrier cavity shaped to accept and generally surround the golf bag and the clubs; and

a golf club protection assembly coupled to the carrier and securing the golf club heads within the carrier cavity, the golf bag protection assembly comprising an adjustable protective helmet extendible over the heads of the golf clubs to engage and secure a top surface of the heads of the golf clubs and, and a protective member extendible about the golf club heads to engage and secure the side surfaces of the golf club heads, the helmet and the protective member collectively defining a protective enclosure for the golf club heads;

wherein the carrier body comprises a sleeve situated in the carrier cavity, the protective member passing through the sleeve.

22. (previously presented) The golf bag carrier of claim 21, wherein the carrier body is generally flexible.

23. (previously presented) The golf bag carrier of claim 21, wherein at least one of the helmet and the protective member includes a locking assembly.

24. (previously presented) The golf bag carrier of claim 21, wherein the protective member comprises a first free end, a second free end, and a length between the first free end and the second free end, the length of the protective member extendible around and generally conformable to a circumference of the golf bag.

25. (cancelled)

26. (previously presented) The golf bag carrier of claim 21, wherein the helmet includes a head portion and a shaft portion, the head and shaft portions foldable over the exposed golf club heads to secure the heads and portions of the shafts of the golf clubs proximate the heads, whereby the golf clubs are prevented from axial movement within the carrier cavity.

27. (previously presented) The golf bag carrier of claim 21, further comprising a wheel casing and at least one wheel.

28-39. (cancelled)